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Recreation Commission Minutes 10/13/2009

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Dave Cunningham Facility Supervisor, Terry McGlaughlin, Oakes Plimpton, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, Paul Cahill and Dick Harmer.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the June 10, 2009 minutes and September 15, 2009 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Pop Warner Request for Temporary Concession Stand for Two Games at McClennen Field

Mr. Connelly presented the request from Mr. Cahill and Arlington Pop Warner. The Commission discussed the necessary permitting requirements with Mr. Cahill including the Board of Health, Fire Department and Board of Selectmen permits. Ms. Mayer asked if a location had been discussed. Mr. Connelly stated that they would have to block off two parking spaces because the activity could not occur on the grass. The Commission discussed allowing this on a pilot basis and was cautious over the precedent this would set. Mr. Connelly stated that he did feel large group special requests were different than individual grilling requests. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the request on a pilot basis with the condition that all necessary permits are obtained and an appropriate location is chosen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Review of Arlington Sport Center Rink Improvement Project

Mr. Connelly introduced Mr. McLaughlin and explained that Mr. McLaughlin has been involved from the beginning of the capital discussions starting back in 2006 with the original capital assessment report. Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the specifications and preliminary plans highlighting the heat exchanger, underfloor heating units, header trench installation and the length of ice. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the first add alternate would be to increase the length of the ice by 10' to bring it closer to the 200' regulation size. Mr. Connelly stated that the goal of this renovation was to improve the rink as much as possible with the funds allocated. Mr. Cunningham stated that this was a once in a career opportunity to perform these types of renovations. Mr. Connelly explained that the goal was to maintain the long-range plans of the facility so that each dollar was maximized well into the future.

Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Cunningham reviewed the new bed, board and glass design. Mr. Cunningham stated that the penalty boxes and time keeper booth would be moved to the near side of the rink and the player's benches would be expanded and stay in

their same orientation.

Ms. Mayer expressed concern that the new penalty box area would be too close to the spectators and that only having a sheet of plexi glass in between the benches was not adequate separation for the teams.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he would investigate both issues and report back to the Commission. Ms. Mayer also wants to make sure that if the mechanical room was ever moved to the rear of the building as illustrated in the Sasaki Master Plan the header trench and piping could be retrofitted and would not have to be totally replaced. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he believed it could but would verify this and report back to the commission.

Mr. Connelly stated that he would be meeting with the Sport Center Improvement Committee and would also be receiving feedback from a low-e ceiling representative. Mr. Connelly will bring the final specifications back to the Commission in November for approval.

Robbins Farm Community/Educational Garden Project

Mr. Plimpton reviewed the request to have a cooperative learning garden at Robbins Farm Park. Mr. Plimpton and Ms. Carr-Jones reviewed the proposal, which included 10 plots, a grass path and an on-line educational component for youth. Mr. Plimpton stated that the initial request was for a temporary location for the pilot program. Mr. Connelly discussed the proposed location with the Commission.

The Commission discussed the proposal. Ms. Mayer stated her concern over who decides who participates in the program and general program oversight and governance. Mr. Connelly suggested that the program be run through the Recreation Department.

Mr. Connelly will set-up a meeting with the program proponents to discuss how a collaborative effort can be undertaken.

Request for Inter City League Use of Field

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for field for an inter city Arlington baseball team from Ed McDonald, Jr. Mr. McDonald Sr., and Mr. Hart reviewed the proposal. Mr. Connelly explained that finding the open times would be the issue. The Commission brainstormed available times. The Commission discussed night games versus day games. Mr. Connelly stated that any field use would have to be extremely neighborhood sensitive and that the home team would be responsible for the behavior and actions of any opposing teams. Mr. Hart commented that the team was looking for 15 dates. Mr. Connelly asked how many players on the roster were Arlington residents. Mr. Hart answered at least 20 out of the 25.

Mr. Vitters motioned that the Commission approve the league as an Arlington organization and attempt to find adequate field times for the league with the final allocated dates to be approved by the commission prior to the beginning of the season. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Mr. Hart will contact Mr. Connelly to discuss the necessary draft schedule.

Friends of Spy Pond Summer 2010 Activities and Grant Request Support

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from the Friends of Spy Pond. The Commission asked that when the actual details of the event are available the Commission be able to review them. Mr. Connelly will inform the Friends of Spy Pond. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the request to hold programming events for children at Spy Pond Park that help facilitate the learning and education of Spy Pond and its adjacent areas. The Commission unanimously supports the objective and looks forward to discussing the details of the events with the FOSP at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Special Event Approvals

Waldo Park – Friends of Waldo Park - 10/31 – 3:30-6:30 pm – Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Menotomy Rocks Park – Denise Leone – 10/30 – 2 pm – Dusk – Spooky Walk.

The Commission discussed the event and need for a Police Detail. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to verify the attendance predictions of 300. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to review the no vehicles in the park policy.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the request and if the attendance numbers were accurate request a police detail for the event. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Rink and Recreation Update

N/A

Capital Improvement Update

N/A

Park Policies

N/A

Committee Updates

N/A

Other

N/A

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation